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General Assembly

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United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea
Fourteenth meeting
17-20 June 2013

Format and annotated provisional agenda

1. Pursuant to resolution 54/33, in which the General Assembly established the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, the two Co-Chairs appointed by the President of the Assembly will develop, in consultation with delegations, a format for the discussions at the Consultative Process that best facilitates its work, in accordance with the rules of procedure and practices of the Assembly. It is recalled that the mandate of the Consultative Process was extended by the Assembly for three-year periods by resolutions 57/141 and 60/30, and for additional two-year periods by resolutions 63/111, 65/37 A and 67/78.

2. On the basis of consultations with delegations and an informal preparatory meeting held at United Nations Headquarters on 20 March 2013, the Co-Chairs, Don MacKay (New Zealand) and Milan Jaya Meetarbhan (Mauritius), developed a format for the discussions at the fourteenth meeting of the Consultative Process (see annex I) and are proposing a provisional agenda for the meeting (see annex II).

3. The areas of concentration for the discussion panel on the topic "The impacts of ocean acidification on the marine environment" are presented in annex III and are intended to identify important issues that the discussion panel may wish to consider, in particular by reference to the annual report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea (to be issued as A/68/71).

4. The Consultative Process is invited to consider and adopt the provisional agenda.

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Annex I

Format for the fourteenth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea

Methods of work

1. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 54/33, the fourteenth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea will work through plenary sessions and a discussion panel.

2. The plenary sessions and discussion panel will be open to participation by all those listed in paragraph 3 (a) of General Assembly resolution 54/33 and by representatives of major groups, as identified in section III of Agenda 21 adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

3. Within the constraints of the available space, such representatives of major groups and other observers will be free to attend the plenary sessions in accordance with established practice.

Agenda

4. The Co-Chairs will propose a draft agenda setting out a programme of work for the meeting and a timetable for the plenary sessions and the discussion panel. The draft agenda will take into account paragraphs 253, 255 and 261 of General Assembly resolution 67/78. The fourteenth meeting will consider and adopt its agenda and timetable accordingly.

Discussion panel

5. In paragraph 261 of resolution 67/78, the General Assembly decided that the meeting would focus its discussions on the impacts of ocean acidification on the marine environment. On the basis of their consultations with delegations, the Co-Chairs will propose an outline for the topic to be considered by the discussion panel. The Co-Chairs intend to invite a limited number of panellists to launch the discussions by making short presentations on relevant aspects.

Outcome of the fourteenth meeting

6. The outcome will consist of a Co-Chairs' summary of issues and ideas raised and discussed during the plenary sessions. It will also reflect issues and ideas raised during the discussion panel. As with past practice, the outcome will include issues that could benefit from attention in the future work of the General Assembly on oceans and the law of the sea. The advance and unedited text of the summary will be presented to the meeting. The summary will be for reference purposes only. The Co-Chairs will transmit the outcome of the meeting to the President of the Assembly.

Annex II

Annotated provisional agenda for the fourteenth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea

Monday, 17 June 2013 **10 a.m.-1 p.m.**[a]

First plenary session

Item 1. Opening of the fourteenth meeting

1. The Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and the Legal Counsel and the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, or their designated representatives, will open the proceedings on behalf of the Secretary-General.

2. The Co-Chairs will make opening remarks.

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda

3. The Consultative Process is invited to consider and, as appropriate, to adopt the agenda of the fourteenth meeting. The schedule of agenda items is only indicative; items may be advanced, depending on the progress made in the discussions.

Item 3. General exchange of views

4. It is suggested that during the general exchange of views delegations may wish to address in particular the topic of the fourteenth meeting, "The impacts of ocean acidification on the marine environment".

5. Owing to time constraints and the potential number of speakers, delegations are kindly requested to limit their interventions to no more than five minutes.

3-6 p.m.[a]

Discussion panel

The impacts of ocean acidification on the marine environment

6. On the basis of areas of concentration for the discussion panel set forth in annex III, it is proposed that the discussion panel segments be organized as set out below. It is proposed that each segment begin with panel presentations, followed by discussions among delegations and panellists.

Segment 1
The process of ocean acidification

(a) Panel presentations;

(b) Discussion.

[a] All sessions will begin promptly at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Segment 2
Impacts of ocean acidification and ongoing activities at the global, regional and national levels to address those impacts

(a) Panel presentations;

(b) Discussion.

Tuesday, 18 June 2013 **10 a.m.-1 p.m.**[a]

Discussion panel (*continued*)

Segment 2 (continued)
Impacts of ocean acidification and ongoing activities at the global, regional and national levels to address those impacts

(a) Panel presentations;

(b) Discussion.

3-6 p.m.[a]

Segment 3
Opportunities and challenges for addressing the impacts of ocean acidification on the marine environment, including through enhanced cooperation on scientific and technical aspects

(a) Panel presentations;

(b) Discussion.

Wednesday, 19 June 2013 **10 a.m.-1 p.m.**[a]

Second plenary session

Item 4. Inter-agency cooperation and coordination

7. The Coordinator of the Oceans and Coastal Areas Network (UN-Oceans), the inter-agency mechanism for cooperation and coordination, will be invited to provide information on the activities of UN-Oceans, including in relation to the topic of focus.

Item 5. Process for the selection of topics and panellists so as to facilitate the work of the General Assembly

8. The Consultative Process will consider the recommendation of the General Assembly in paragraph 255 of resolution 67/78 that the Consultative Process devise a transparent, objective and inclusive process for the selection of topics and panellists so as to facilitate the work of the Assembly during informal consultations concerning the annual resolution on oceans and the law of the sea. Delegations will be invited to make general statements and be given the opportunity to present specific proposals in that regard.

Item 6. Issues that could benefit from attention in the future work of the General Assembly on oceans and the law of the sea

9. The Consultative Process will be presented with a composite streamlined list of issues that could benefit from attention in the future work of the General

Assembly, prepared by the Co-Chairs on the basis of part C of the reports on the work of the Consultative Process from its fourth to thirteenth meetings (A/58/95, A/59/122, A/60/99, A/61/156, A/62/169, A/63/174 and Corr.1, A/64/131, A/65/164, A/66/186 and A/67/120). The Co-Chairs will inform the Consultative Process of the additional issues that will have been suggested by delegations during the fourteenth meeting for inclusion in the list of issues that could benefit from attention in the future work of the Assembly.

3-6 p.m.[a]

[*Reserved*]

Thursday, 20 June 2013 **10 a.m.-1 p.m.**[a]

Third plenary session

Item 7. Consideration of the outcome of the meeting

10. The Consultative Process will be provided with an opportunity to consider the outcome of the meeting. In accordance with the draft format for the meeting (see annex I), the outcome will consist of a Co-Chairs' summary of issues and ideas raised and discussed during the plenary sessions. It will also reflect issues and ideas raised during the discussion panel. As with past practice, the outcome will include issues that could benefit from attention in the future work of the General Assembly on oceans and the law of the sea. The summary will be for reference purposes only.

3-6 p.m.[a]

Fourth plenary session

Item 7. Consideration of the outcome of the meeting (continued)

Annex III

Proposed areas of concentration for the discussion panel on the topic "The impacts of ocean acidification on the marine environment"

Information contained in the report of the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly decided in resolution 67/78 that, in its deliberations on the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea, the fourteenth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea would focus its discussions on the impacts of ocean acidification on the marine environment. At the request of the Co-Chairs of the meeting, the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea has made available on its website, at www.un.org/Depts/los/consultative_process/consultative_process.htm, advance and unedited reporting material on oceans and the law of the sea prepared for the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, relating to the topic of focus of the fourteenth meeting.

Discussion panel segments

2. In considering the possible approaches for structuring the discussion panel segments in relation to the topic of focus, it may be recalled that the General Assembly, in resolution 67/78, recognized the role of the Consultative Process as a unique forum for comprehensive discussions on issues related to oceans and the law of the sea, consistent with the framework provided by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and chapter 17 of Agenda 21, and that the perspective of the three pillars of sustainable development should be further enhanced in the examination of the selected topics. The Assembly also recognized the primary role of the Consultative Process in integrating knowledge, the exchange of opinions among multiple stakeholders and coordination among competent agencies, and enhancing awareness of topics, including emerging issues, while promoting the three pillars of sustainable development. It is understood that consideration of the topic will focus on the scientific and technical aspects of ocean acidification and not on the policy or regulatory aspects.

3. In considering the topic of focus, it is therefore proposed that the respective panel segments concentrate their discussions on the following areas:

(a) The process of ocean acidification

4. This panel segment could: (a) describe the process of ocean acidification and its causes; (b) assess the extent of ocean acidification; and (c) provide information on ongoing or future studies relating to the extent, causes and consequences of ocean acidification.

(b) Impacts of ocean acidification and ongoing activities at the global, regional and national levels to address those impacts

5. This panel segment could: (a) provide information on the present and expected impacts of ocean acidification on the marine environment; (b) highlight the

associated socioeconomic impacts of ocean acidification, including on economic and social development; and (c) provide information on ongoing activities undertaken at the global and regional levels to address the impacts of ocean acidification on the marine environment. It could include information on proposed or ongoing initiatives and measures at the national level aimed at mitigation and adaptation.

6. In considering the above, the panel could also address the impacts of ocean acidification on coastal areas and communities, together with the relevant adaptive management measures.

(c) *Opportunities and challenges for addressing the impacts of ocean acidification on the marine environment, including through enhanced cooperation on scientific and technical aspects*

7. With a focus on intergovernmental and inter-agency cooperation and coordination, this panel segment could provide various perspectives on the opportunities and challenges for addressing the impacts of ocean acidification on the marine environment and coastal ecosystems, including in relation to the economic, environmental and social aspects. The panel could explore the extent of knowledge gaps, consider mitigation and adaptation measures and their potential impacts, and also draw attention to issues relating to capacity-building and technology transfer, including needs of, and available programmes of assistance for, developing countries in relation to, among other things, marine scientific research.